

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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INTERIOR DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES SEASON LENGTHS AND BAG LIMITS FOR HUNTING
MOURNING DOVES, WHITE-WINGED DOVES, AND BAND-TAILED PIGEONS

Increased bag and possession limits on mourning doves for the 1964-65 hunting season were announced today by the Department of the Interior. The more liberal limits result from a nationwide increase in mourning dove populations.

Surveys by the Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and by the various State game and fish departments have shown dove populations to be up slightly in the Eastern and Central Management Units and moderately up in the Western Management Unit.

The Department also announced a four-day season on white-winged doves in 21 south Texas counties. The hunting of white-wings was prohibited in Texas in 1963, but a major population increase as a result of improved nesting conditions in south Texas has permitted an open season this year.

Latest field reports indicate no significant change in the population of band-tailed pigeons. The "framework" regulations for these birds--bag limits and dates within which the hunting season must fall--will be essentially the same as last year's.

The pattern of outside dates and season lengths for mourning doves, white-winged doves, and band-tailed pigeons will be used by State game departments to work out recommendations for the actual hunting season in their respective States. The Department of the Interior then considers these recommendations in developing the final hunting seasons.

Following are the frameworks as approved by Secretary of the Interior
Stewart L. Udall:

Mourning Doves

Results of the 1964 surveys indicate that mourning dove breeding populations are up slightly in the Eastern and Central Management Units and moderately up in the Western Management Unit. The healthy status of the mourning dove population is reflected in slight increase in the daily bag and possession limits for 1964-65.

Within the outside dates of September 1 through January 15, all States may select specific open seasons conforming to the following conditions:

In the Eastern Management Unit, which includes all States east of the Mississippi River and Louisiana, daily shooting hours are from 12 o'clock noon until sunset (standard time), with a daily bag limit of 12 and a possession limit of 24, and an open season of 70 consecutive half days or split seasons of not more than three periods totaling not more than 70 half days.

In the Central Management Unit, which extends west from the Eastern unit to include Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico, the daily shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset (standard time) in all States except Texas, with a daily bag limit of 12 and a possession limit of 24, and an open season of 60 consecutive full days in all States except Texas or split seasons of not more than three periods totaling not more than 60 full days in all States except Texas.

In New Mexico and Texas, the daily bag and possession limits on mourning and white-winged doves, in the aggregate of both kinds, are 12 and 24, of which not more than 10 daily and 20 in possession may be white-winged doves.

Because of the area involved, Texas will again be permitted to select open seasons for each of two established geographical areas.

An open season of 60 consecutive half days within the outside dates of September 1 through January 15 will be permitted for the Northern Area with daily shooting hours from 12 o'clock noon until sunset (standard time): Provided, that in the 9 counties of the Northern Area, where the hunting of white-winged doves is to be permitted on September 5 and 6 and on September 12 and 13, daily shooting hours on these days shall be from 2 p.m. until sunset (standard time) for both species.

In the Southern Area, an open season of 60 consecutive half days within the outside dates of September 26 through January 15 will be permitted with daily shooting hours from 12 o'clock noon until sunset (standard time): Provided, that in the 12 counties of the Southern Area, where the hunting of both mourning and white-winged doves is to be permitted on September 5 and 6 and on September 12 and 13, the mourning dove season shall run for only 56 consecutive half days with the opening of this 56-day season to coincide with the opening of the full 60-day season selected for the Southern Area, and the daily shooting hours for both white-winged and mourning doves on September 5, 6, 12, and 13 shall be from 2 p.m. until sunset (standard time).

In the Western Management Unit, which includes those States whose complete area lies west of the Continental Divide, the daily shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset (standard time), with a daily bag limit of 12 and a possession limit of 24, and an open season of 50 consecutive full days, or split seasons of not more than three periods totaling not more than 50 full days.

In Clark County, Nevada, and in Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, California, the daily bag and possession limits on mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate of both kinds are 12 and 24, of which not more than 10 daily and 20 in possession may be white-winged doves.

White-Winged Doves

1964 surveys indicate a major increase in breeding white-winged doves in Texas, with little change in breeding populations in other States. An open season is prescribed for the entire States of Arizona and New Mexico; in Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties of California; in Clark County, Nevada; and in the Texas Counties of Brewster, Brooks, Cameron, Culberson, Dimmit, El Paso, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Presidio, Starr, Terrell, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy, and Zapata.

In Arizona, California, Nevada, and New Mexico, the open season dates and the daily shooting hours for hunting white-winged doves will be the same as for mourning doves.

In the 21 counties in Texas, both white-winged and mourning doves may be taken from 2 p.m. until sunset (standard time) on September 5, 6, 12, and 13.

In Arizona, the daily bag and possession limit on white-winged doves is 25.

In California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas, the daily bag and possession limits on white-winged and mourning doves, in the aggregate of both kinds, are 12 and 24, of which not more than 10 daily and 20 in possession may be white-winged doves.

Band-Tailed Pigeons

No significant changes in the overall populations of band-tailed pigeons have been reported, and the framework will conform with that of last year.

Within the outside dates of September 1 through January 15, Oregon and Washington may select open seasons of 30 consecutive days. California may select open seasons of 30 consecutive days for each of two previously established areas.

In all States, the daily bag and possession limit on band-tailed pigeons is 8, with daily shooting hours from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset (standard time).

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